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the patriotic and nationalistic prophets of the time just before and after the fall of Jerusalem, the opponents of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, who were the real advocates, if they were not the originators, of the Messianic idea.

This little book is characterized by a large degree of ingenuity, but with its aim, its method, and its result the present reviewer has no sympathy. It is scarcely scientific to take the Messianic idea in the form which it had assumed in the later Judaism and apply it to the teaching of the earlier prophets, and then conclude that the Messianic idea was not present there even in germ, because its later outgrowth bears so little resemblance to the germ. And, further, the reviewer feels it his duty to protest against the author's treatment of the text. Interpolations and glosses there may be, and there doubtless are, just as there are some passages, which, by a corruption of the text, are rendered impossible of translation and interpretation. But the recognition of this fact is a far different thing from the wholesale excision of all passages which do not harmonize with some preconceived theory. Scientific method demands that the theory shall be the outgrowth and explanation of the data, and forbids the selection of the data to suit the theory.

WALTER R. BETTERIDGE.

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DIE BERUFSBEGABUNG DER ALTTESTAMENTLICHEN PROPHETEN.
Von FRIEDRICH GIESEBRECHT, Dr. und Professor der
Theologie zu Greifswald. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck &
Ruprecht, 1897. Pp. 188. M. 4.40.

THE title is a happy one and deserves a better book. The author is a capable one, and should have written a better book. Really, it is not a book at all, but an abnormally developed magazine article of a controversial character. It grew out of a paper that appeared two years ago in the *Greifswalder Studien*. That paper was a reply to a review by Oort of the author's commentary on Jeremiah; and the occasion of Oort's "herber Kritik" was, says Giesebrecht, chiefly a "polemische Bemerkung" of the commentary against Kuenen. Evidently the book is not to blame for its character, with such a line of descent as that.

The subject is one of permanent interest, and the book should be of permanent value. The strength of such a book will lie in its

positive and constructive features. *Kritiken* and *Widerlegungen* of a dozen scholars "right" and "left" may be exciting at the time, but do not form a permanent contribution to the literature of the prophets. Those who feel it incumbent upon them to follow the positions taken by different scholars must know what Giesebrecht says here. Those whose aim is to learn about the prophets will doubtless find more instructive and suggestive reading elsewhere.

The absence of clear definition of topics, and of logical progress of thought, is illustrated, not to say indicated, by the unsatisfactory editing of the volume for the press. There are no titles or headings, large or small, except that the two appendices have titles. One can scan four, five, or six pages in succession without discovering even a paragraph indentation. The table of contents is most unsatisfactory. Making use of it, the reader often finds the page referred to unbroken even by paragraphs.

In his preface the author's tone is throughout one of apology. We are, however, indebted to him for a clear statement here of what he calls his "Standpunkt." To him the revelation of God to the prophets is no figure of speech, but a sure reality; but the reality of the revelation does not demand that it be accomplished by means of an objective miracle. We would be glad courteously to call this his thesis as well as his point of view; but this he forbids by frankly avowing his purpose: "So habe ich mich bald gegen rechts, bald gegen links wenden müssen, mit Angriff und Abwehr, nicht aus schwächerer Vermittelungsneigung, sondern aus dem Verlangen nach Wahrheit."

The appendices are not subject to all the foregoing strictures. The one entitled "The Spirit of Jahwe" is a clear, though not very profound, historical examination of the Spirit as understood by the prophets, and that concerning the predictions of Ezekiel is a well-articulated discussion of this prophet's peculiarities.

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ÜBER DIE AUFGABE UND METHODE DER SOGENANTEN NEUTESTAMENTLICHEN THEOLOGIE. Von D. H. WREDE, o. Professor der ev. Theologie zu Breslau. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1897. Pp. 80. M. 1.80.

THIS brochure contains the substance of lectures delivered by the author at a convention of clergy held under the auspices of the Univer-